

management. Today, more than one in five health care dollars and one in three Medicare dollars are spent on care for people with diabetes.

Under the current Medicare statute, physician assistants or nurse practitioners are required to refer their patients with diabetes to a physician in order to certify the patient's need for therapeutic shoes, which often results in delays in treatment and added costs. The Promoting Access to Diabetic Shoes Act would fix this problem by allowing nurse practitioners and physician assistants to certify a Medicare beneficiary's need for therapeutic shoes, which will improve timeliness and access to care while reducing costs.

Therapeutic shoes are a cost effective, preventive treatment option intended to avoid the costly complications that can arise if maintenance of diabetic care is delayed or unavailable. Types of complications that can result from unmanaged diabetic symptoms include poor circulation, infections, and foot ulcers that can require hospitalization, or even result in the amputation of toes, feet, or legs.

In addition to preventable complications and additional costs that can result from delays in treatment, the current documentation requirement under Medicare can also disrupt the trusted patient-provider relationship many patients have with an NP or PA. Current statute requires the certifying physician to be a patient's provider for diabetic care moving forward, which is often in conflict with a patient's preference. Moreover, in rural areas, including many parts of my home state of Maine, access to diabetic management though a PA or NP is not only necessary, but it is sometimes unavoidable due to the shortage of primary care providers in the area. Maine alone has 68 designated Health Professional Shortage Areas for primary care practitioners. These health care professionals are already providing accessible, high quality diabetic care across the country. In fact, a March 2018 article in the American Journal of Medicine concluded that PAs and NPs are able to perform as well as physicians in the management of diabetes at diagnosis through the first five years of follow-up care.

Stephanie Podolski, President of the Maine Association of Physician Assistants, which represents over 700 PAs in Maine, reiterated these points and the importance of the physician assistant profession in diabetes management in a letter of support for our bill saying, "In a State like Maine, there are many rural communities that at times are served only by a PA as a primary care provider (PCP). The inability to order diabetic shoes is an outdated barrier to care that impacts both middle-aged and older Americans who frequently live in areas facing provider shortages."

The Promoting Access to Diabetic Shoes Act is endorsed by the American Association of Nurse Practitioners, the

American Academy of Physician Assistants, and the American Podiatric Medical Association. I am pleased to join Senator BROWN in introducing the Promoting Access to Diabetic Shoes Act, which will improve access to diabetic care, and I encourage my colleagues to support its adoption.

#### SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

##### SENATE RESOLUTION 547—DESIGNATING JUNE 19, 2018, AS "JUNETEENTH INDEPENDENCE DAY" IN RECOGNITION OF JUNE 19, 1865, THE DATE ON WHICH SLAVERY LEGALLY CAME TO AN END IN THE UNITED STATES

Mr. WICKER (for himself, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. BENNET, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. BROWN, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. CARPER, Mr. COONS, Mr. CORNYN, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Mr. DONNELLY, Mr. DURBIN, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. GRASSLEY, Ms. HARRIS, Ms. HASSAN, Mr. HATCH, Mr. HELLER, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. JONES, Mr. KAINE, Mr. KING, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. LEE, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. MURPHY, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. NELSON, Mr. PAUL, Mr. PERDUE, Mr. PETERS, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. SCOTT, Ms. SMITH, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. WARNER, Ms. WARREN, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. YOUNG, and Mr. CRUZ) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 547

Whereas news of the end of slavery did not reach the frontier areas of the United States, in particular the State of Texas and the other Southwestern States, until months after the conclusion of the Civil War, more than 2½ years after President Abraham Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation on January 1, 1863;

Whereas, on June 19, 1865, Union soldiers, led by Major General Gordon Granger, arrived in Galveston, Texas, with news that the Civil War had ended and that the enslaved were free;

Whereas African-Americans who had been slaves in the Southwest celebrated June 19, commonly known as "Juneteenth Independence Day", as inspiration and encouragement for future generations;

Whereas African-Americans from the Southwest have continued the tradition of observing Juneteenth Independence Day for over 150 years;

Whereas 45 States and the District of Columbia have designated Juneteenth Independence Day as a special day of observance in recognition of the emancipation of all slaves in the United States;

Whereas Juneteenth Independence Day celebrations have been held to honor African-American freedom while encouraging self-development and respect for all cultures;

Whereas the faith and strength of character demonstrated by former slaves and the descendants of former slaves remain an example for all people of the United States, regardless of background, religion, or race;

Whereas slavery was not officially abolished until the ratification of the 13th Amendment to the Constitution of the United States in December 1865; and

Whereas, over the course of its history, the United States has grown into a symbol of de-

mocracy and freedom around the world: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) designates June 19, 2018, as "Juneteenth Independence Day";

(2) recognizes the historical significance of Juneteenth Independence Day to the United States;

(3) supports the continued nationwide celebration of Juneteenth Independence Day to provide an opportunity for the people of the United States to learn more about the past and to better understand the experiences that have shaped the United States; and

(4) recognizes that the observance of the end of slavery is part of the history and heritage of the United States.

##### SENATE RESOLUTION 548—EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE SENATE THAT HIGH PERFORMANCE BUILDINGS IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF LIFE FOR MILLIONS OF INDIVIDUALS, PRODUCE A MORE RESILIENT AND SUSTAINABLE WORLD FOR CURRENT AND FUTURE GENERATIONS, REDUCE OPERATING COSTS, AND IMPROVE THE PRODUCTIVITY, COMFORT, AND HEALTH OF OCCUPANTS, AND DESIGNATING THE WEEK OF JUNE 11 THROUGH JUNE 15, 2018, AS "HIGH PERFORMANCE BUILDING WEEK"

Mr. CARDIN (for himself, Mr. GARDNER, Mrs. CAPITO, and Mr. VAN HOLLEN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 548

Whereas the term "high performance building" is defined in section 401 of the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 (42 U.S.C. 17061) as "a building that integrates and optimizes on a life cycle basis all major high performance attributes, including energy conservation, environment, safety, security, durability, accessibility, cost-benefit, productivity, sustainability, functionality, and operational considerations";

Whereas, because individuals spend approximately 90 percent of their time indoors and buildings are the single largest consumer of energy and water in the United States, built environments have a vast impact on virtually all aspects of life and national security in the United States;

Whereas the United States benefits technologically, economically, and environmentally from innovative technologies developed for use in high performance buildings;

Whereas research and programs that are supported by government entities and private industry and relate to high performance buildings benefit the United States and individuals in the United States; and

Whereas investing in resilient and robust building systems protects individuals and businesses in the United States from the impacts of man-made disasters and natural disasters, such as hurricanes, snowstorms, tornadoes, wildland fires, floods, and earthquakes: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) designates the week of June 11 through June 15, 2018, as "High Performance Building Week"; and

(2) supports efforts to—

(A) improve the performance of existing and future buildings through—